

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are currently pending in this application. It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has again allowed Claims 1-5 and 14-17, and still finds allowable subject matter in Claims 11-12.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Thakker* (U.S. 6,487,602 B1), Claims 8, 10, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Thakker* in view of *Fryer* (U.S. 6,233,428 B1), and Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Thakker* in view of *Lappenbusch et al.* (U.S. 5,982,298).

Claim 6 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of objected to Claim 11 and intervening Claim 8, both of which are cancelled herein without prejudice.

Independent Claim 6 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 7, 9, 10, 12 and 13, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 7, 9, 10, 12 and 13 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-7, 9, 10 and 12-17, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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